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10/054,038	11/12/2001	Sunao Takatori	2222.6080000	1387

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EXAMINER

HALIYUR, VENKATESH N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2476

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/02/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/054,038	Applicant(s) TAKATORI ET AL.	
	Examiner VENKATESH HALIYUR	Art Unit 2476	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 (2-3,5-6,11,17,19 are canceled) is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,7-10,12-16,18 and 20-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 04/19/2010 has been fully considered. However the amendments necessitated a new search to be performed and therefore a new ground(s) of rejection has been made with newly found references. Rejections follow.
2. Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 11, 17, 19 are canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 12, 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention.

Claim 12 recites the limitations of "An article of manufacturing including a tangible computer-readable medium...", that includes non-statutory subject matter as a claim to a computer-readable medium that can be a storage device or a radio wave or a communication medium covers both statutory and non-

statutory subject matter and therefore is rejected under 35 USC 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Therefore appropriate correction is required to Claim 12, by modifying the limitation to read as “An article of manufacturing including a tangible non-transitory computer-readable medium....”

In claims 20-23, the limitation of the “status of the radio waves received by the wireless communication device or current traffic congestion of a communication medium that the transmission data is to be transmitted over” is non-statutory because the claims are directed to a radio waves or signals.

In order to fully satisfy the requirements of 35 USC interim guidelines since the tangible computer-readable medium encoded with instructions is defined to be a memory storing control program and data in the specification (pp 1-5) and the communication medium includes radio waves that covers both a transitory and non-transitory subject matter. Therefore appropriate correction is required to positively recite the above limitation of claims 12, 20-23 as suggested herein.

For further details please refer to Interim Examination Instructions for Evaluating Subject Matter Eligibility Under 35 U.S.C 101, Aug. 24, 2009 .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 20-23, the limitation of the “status of the radio waves received by the wireless communication device or current traffic congestion of a communication medium that the transmission data is to be transmitted over” as the status information of the radio waves lacks antecedent basis in the independent claims 1, 7, 12, 16 respectively and therefore is indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Appropriate corrections are required to claims 20-23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1,4,7-9,12-13,15-16,18,20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Alfano et al [US Pat: 6,094,423] and Golestani [US Pat: 6,965,943] further in view of Seddigh et al [US Pat: 7,035,214].

Regarding claims 1, and 4, Alfano et al in the invention of “Wireless Protocol Method and Apparatus Supporting Transaction Requests with Variable Length Responses” disclosed a wireless communications device (**Fig 6**) comprising:

a transmitter (**XMTR, item 51 of Fig 6**) configured to transmit a query to a destination communication device, the query being about packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**server, col 5, lines 45-55**).

a receiver (**RCVR, item 54 of Fig 6**) to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device (**server**), the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 5, lines 56-67, col 3, lines 25-27**).

a determining device (**processor, item 58 of Fig 6**) to select an appropriate packet size (**MTU, Maximum transfer unit size**) for transmission data to be packetized (**col 5, lines 45-67, col 6, lines 1-16**), the appropriate packet size being selected according to the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device or (**server response indicates the packet size, col 5, lines 5-17, col 6, lines 17-23**) and a packet generator (**processor**) configured to packetize the transmission data based on the appropriate packet size determined by said determining device (**processor segments packets if packet size exceeds MTU, col 6, lines 24-54, Fig 7**) and a storage device (**RAM, item 66 of Fig 6**) configured to

store information with respect to the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 5, lines 62-67, col 6, lines 1-4**). Alfano disclosed the feature of a determining device configured to select a most appropriate packet size for transmission data to be packetized but fails to disclose a method wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device. However, Golestani disclosed the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 3, lines 3-47, col 10, lines 54-66, Fig 4**).

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device as taught Golestani in the system of Alfano et al to include the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination

communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device.

Both Alfano and Golestani fail to disclose a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted,. However, Seddigh et al disclosed a method wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted **(re-transmission occurs due to error or traffic congestion, col 3, lines 52-63, col 6, lines 1-30, col 7, lines 17-58, Figs 4-8)**. Therefore it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted as taught by Seddigh et al in the system of Alfano et al as modified by Golestani to include the feature wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted, wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device. One is

motivated in order to provide a mechanism for the receiving side to request transmitting side to transmit data packet sizes to achieve an optimal transmission rate for error, delay and congestion control.

Regarding claims 7, and 9, Alfano et al disclosed a method for determining packet sizes for transmission data to be packetized and transmitted from a communication terminal device (**communication device, item 50, Fig 6**) to a destination communication device (**server**), the method comprising:

transmitting (**XMTR, item 51 of Fig 6**) a query to the destination communication device, the query being about packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**server, col 5, lines 45-63**).

receiving (**RCVR, item 54 of Fig 6**) a response to the query from the destination communication device (**server**), the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 5, lines 56-67, col 6, lines 1-16, col 3, lines 25-27**).

selecting an appropriate packet size for transmission data to be packetized, the appropriate packet size being selected according to (**server response indicates the packet size, col 6, lines 17-23**) and packetizing said transmission data according to the packet size selected (**processor segments packets if packet size exceeds MTU, col 6, lines 24-54**) and a packet generator (**processor**) configured to packetize the transmission data based on the appropriate packet size determined by said determining device (**processor segments packets if packet size exceeds MTU, col 6, lines 24-54, Fig 7**) and a storage device (**RAM, item 66 of Fig 6**) configured to store information

with respect to the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 5, lines 62-67, col 6, lines 1-4**). Alfano disclosed the feature of a determining device configured to select a most appropriate packet size for transmission data to be packetized but fails to disclose a method wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device. However, Golestani disclosed the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 3, lines 3-47, col 10, lines 54-66, Fig 4**).

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device as taught Golestani in the system of Alfano et al to include the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination

communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device.

Both Alfano and Golestani fail to disclose a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted,. However, Seddigh et al disclosed a method wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted **(re-transmission occurs due to error or traffic congestion, col 3, lines 52-63, col 6, lines 1-30, col 7, lines 17-58, Figs 4-8)**. Therefore it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted as taught by Seddigh et al in the system of Alfano et al as modified by Golestani to include the feature wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted, wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device. One is

motivated in order to provide a mechanism for the receiving side to request transmitting side to transmit data packet sizes to achieve an optimal transmission rate for error, delay and congestion control.

Regarding claims 8 and 13 Alfano et al disclosed transmitting said packetized transmission data from said communication terminal device to said destination communication device **(col 5, lines 45-51)**.

Regarding claims 12, and 15, Alfano et al disclosed An article of manufacture including a tangible computer-readable medium encoded with instructions **(items 11 and 14, Fig 1)**, execution of which by a computing device cause the computing device to perform operations comprising:

transmitting **(XMTR, item 51 of Fig 6)** a query to the destination communication device, the query directed to packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device **(server, col 5, lines 45-55)**.

receiving **(RCVR, item 54 of Fig 6)** a response to the query from the destination communication device **(server)**, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device **(col 5, lines 56-67, col 3, lines 25-27)**.

selecting an appropriate packet size for transmission data to be packetized, the appropriate packet size being selected according to the received information corresponding to the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination device **(server response indicates the packet size, col 6, lines 17-23)** and instructions for packetizing said transmission data according to the packet size selected **(processor**

segments packets if packet size exceeds MTU, col 6, lines 24-54) and a packet generator (**processor**) configured to packetize the transmission data based on the appropriate packet size determined by said determining device (**processor segments packets if packet size exceeds MTU, col 6, lines 24-54, Fig 7**) and a storage device (**RAM, item 66 of Fig 6**) configured to store information with respect to the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 5, lines 62-67, col 6, lines 1-4**). Alfano disclosed the feature of a determining device configured to select a most appropriate packet size for transmission data to be packetized but fails to disclose a method wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device. However, Golestani disclosed the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 3, lines 3-47, col 10, lines 54-66, Fig 4**).

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device as taught

Golestani in the system of Alfano et al to include the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device.

Both Alfano and Golestani fail to disclose a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted,. However, Seddigh et al disclosed a method wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted **(re-transmission occurs due to error or traffic congestion, col 3, lines 52-63, col 6, lines 1-30, col 7, lines 17-58, Figs 4-8)**. Therefore it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted as taught by Seddigh et al in the system of Alfano et al as modified by Golestani to include the feature wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device

and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted, wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device. One is motivated in order to provide a mechanism for the receiving side to request transmitting side to transmit data packet sizes to achieve an optimal transmission rate for error, delay and congestion control.

Regarding claims 16, and 18, Alfano et al disclosed a communication terminal device (**communication device, item 50, Fig 6**) configured to determine packet sizes for transmission data to be packetized and transmitted to a destination communication device (**server**), the communication terminal device (**Figs 6/7**) comprising:

A transmitter configured to transmit (**XMTR, item 51 of Fig 6**) a query to the destination communication device, the query being about packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**server, col 5, lines 45-55**).

means for receiving (**RCVR, item 54 of Fig 6**) a response to the query from the destination communication device (**server**), the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 5, lines 56-67, col 3, lines 25-27**).

means for selecting an appropriate packet size for transmission data to be packetized transmission data, the appropriate packet size being selected according to and means for packetizing the transmission data based on the appropriate packet size determined by said determining device (**processor segments packets if packet size exceeds MTU, col 6, lines 24-54, Fig 7**) and a storage device (**RAM, item 66 of Fig 6**)

configured to store information with respect to the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 5, lines 62-67, col 6, lines 1-4**). Alfano disclosed the feature of a determining device configured to select a most appropriate packet size for transmission data to be packetized but fails to disclose a method wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device. However, Golestani disclosed the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device (**col 3, lines 3-47, col 10, lines 54-66, Fig 4**).

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device as taught Golestani in the system of Alfano et al to include the feature of wherein a receiver configured to receive a response to the query from the destination communication device, the response indicating the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination

communication device and wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device.

Both Alfano and Golestani fail to disclose a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted,. However, Seddigh et al disclosed a method wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted **(re-transmission occurs due to error or traffic congestion, col 3, lines 52-63, col 6, lines 1-30, col 7, lines 17-58, Figs 4-8)**. Therefore it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted as taught by Seddigh et al in the system of Alfano et al as modified by Golestani to include the feature wherein a retransmission request that occurs in response to detecting a communication error or traffic congestion between the wireless communications device and the destination communication device, the retransmission request occurring while packets are being transmitted, wherein the appropriate packet size is smaller than the packet sizes that are recognizable by the destination communication device. One is

motivated in order to provide a mechanism for the receiving side to request transmitting side to transmit data packet sizes to achieve an optimal transmission rate for error, delay and congestion control.

Regarding claims 20-23, wherein the determining device is configured to perform the selecting of the appropriate packet size according to one or more of a status of radio waves received by the wireless communication device or current traffic congestion of a communication medium that the transmission data is to be transmitted over (**col 6, lines 24-36**).

8. Claims 10, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.103 (a) as being unpatentable over Alfano et al [US Pat: 6,094,423] and Golestani [US Pat: 6,965,943] and Seddigh et al [US Pat: 7,035,214] further in view of Roobal et al [US Pat: 6,307,867].

Regarding claims 10, 14, Golestani, Alfano disclosed packetizing and retransmitting packets size after the transmitting to the receiver and Ranganathan disclosed repacketizing different packet size and retransmitting to the receiver but Golestani, Alfano, Seddigh fail to positively disclose the feature of generating the retransmission request requesting a different packet size to the destination communication device. However, Roobal et al disclosed a method of receiving, after the transmitting a retransmission request requesting a different packet size (**col 1, lines 34-49, col 7, lines 26-59, Figs 4, 10**).

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of receiving, after the transmitting a

retransmission request requesting a different packet size as taught by Roobal et al in the system of Alfano et al as modified by Golestani and Seddigh et al to include the feature of receiving, after the transmitting a retransmission request requesting a different packet size. One is motivated in order to provide a mechanism for the receiving side to request transmitting side to transmit data packet sizes to achieve an optimal transmission rate for error, delay and congestion control.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's argument, see remarks filed on 04/19/2010 with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to the attention to Venkatesh Haliyur whose phone number is 571-272-8616. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached @ (571)-272-3579. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (571)-272-2600 or fax to 571-273-8300.

12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197(toll-free).

/Venkatesh Haliyur/

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Examiner, Art Unit 2476

/Ayaz R. Sheikh/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2476